

Amendment No. 2 to HB1840

Clemmons
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1556*

House Bill No. 1840

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 22, is amended by adding the following new part:

(a) No counselor or therapist providing counseling or therapy services shall be required to counsel or serve a client as to goals, outcomes, or behaviors that the counselor lacks the competence to address; provided, that the counselor or therapist coordinates a referral of the client to another counselor or therapist who will provide the counseling or therapy. Lack of competency shall include any therapeutic issue in which the counselor or therapist feels the counselor or therapist lacks adequate training.

(b) The refusal to provide counseling or therapy services as described in subsection (a) shall not be the basis for:

- (1) A civil cause of action; or
- (2) Criminal prosecution.

(c) For purposes of this section, "counseling or therapy services" means assisting an individual, who is seeking or engaged in the counseling relationship in a manner intended to facilitate normal human growth and development, using a combination of mental health and human development principles, methods, and techniques, to achieve mental, emotional, physical, social, moral, educational, spiritual, or career development and adjustment throughout the life span.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.